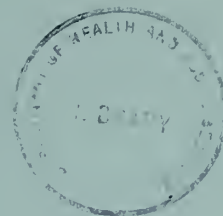


BOROUGH OF MONMOUTH



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1969

Council Offices,
Monmouth.

M.S. MATHARU, L.R.C.P. & S.I., L.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

MONMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mayor

Councillor J. C. Lewis

Deputy Mayor

Councillor Dr. G. E. Griffiths

ALDERMEN

Mr. S. Howard Bowen, J.P.

Mr. W. L. Bigham

Mr. J. B. Breakwell

Mr. P. C. Harris

COUNCILLORS

Mrs. N. C. A. Smith

Mr. W. J. L. Wills

Mr. R. R. H. Willcox

Mr. G. J. Hall

Mr. R. Bishop

Mr. S. H. H. Clarke

Mr. T. J. Griffiths

Mr. B. F. Amos

Mrs. N. S. Price

Mr. C. H. Martin

Town Clerk - D. G. Allen, A.I.M.T.A.

Public Health Sphere Leader

Councillor Dr. G. E. Griffiths

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health

M. S. Matharu, I.R.C.P. & S.I., L.M., D.P.H.

Borough Surveyor

W. A. Haigh, M.A.P.H.I., C.S.I.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector

W. R. Taylor

BOROUGH OF MONMOUTH



MONMOUTH

17th December, 1970.

The Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Monmouth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough of Monmouth for the year ended 31st December, 1969.

This year marked the untimely death of my predecessor, Dr. E. N. Dowell, who in his capacity as Medical Officer of this Borough, gave untiring service to the community. Those of you who remember him for over 21 years will agree that he was proud to associate his name with this ancient Borough and I feel in the history of this old and historical town Dr. Dowell will be long remembered.

The health of the Borough was satisfactory.

This year also saw the tragic loss of the physiotherapy centre in Monmouth which of course would mean hardship to the people living in this area, but nevertheless one has to bow to the wishes of the Welsh Offices whose policy is to centralise hospital services. It is hoped that the centralisation of physiotherapy services would not produce a lot of problems in this area concerning patients who are in need of physiotherapy treatment. It was suggested that should there be such problems then the whole question of physiotherapy services would be reviewed.

In the production of this Report credit is accorded to the continual co-operation of Mr. Haigh and to Mr. Taylor. They have given their support to me at all times and have carried out their public health duties with great efficiency.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

M. S. MATHARU

Medical Officer of Health.

MONMOUTH BOROUGH 1969

STATISTICS

The estimated mid-year population was 6,280. In 1968 the population was 6,130. The natural decrease, i.e. the figure that the number of deaths exceeds the number of births, was 5.

Births

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	54	32	86
Illegitimate	5	3	8

Of the above, only 21 were registered with the Local Registrar.

The highest number of births recorded since 1950 was 111 in 1952 and the lowest was 73 in 1959.

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
-	-	-	-

This year therefore ranks in the same way as did 1960, 1962 and 1965 as there were no still births in these years.

This is a very favourable state of conditions in relation to 1952, 1953, 1961 and 1963 when three still births were recorded per year.

Infant Mortality

This year there were two deaths of infants under one year - one male and one female. This again compares favourably with 1951 when there were five deaths, but it naturally does not compare well with 1960, 1961 and 1968 when there were no deaths of infants under one year of age.

Deaths

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
43	56	99

There were 56 deaths in 1959 and 94 in 1965. There were 4 deaths attributed to malignant disease of lung in 1956.

DEATHS IN MONMOUTH BOROUGH 1969

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus stomach	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	2	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	-	1
Benign and unspecified neoplasm	1	-
Diabetes	-	1
Other endocrine diseases	-	1
Other diseases of the nervous system	-	1
Chronic asthmatic disease	-	1
Heart disease	15	10
Other forms of heart disease	4	4
Cerebro vascular disease	6	15
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	5
Influenza	1	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	3
Asthma	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	3
Other diseases of digestive system	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	2
Congenital anomalies	-	2
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	-
Birth injury, difficult labour	-	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	-
All other accidents	2	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	43	56
	<hr/>	<hr/>

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Diphtheria

For eighteen consecutive years, no case has been notified.

Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough Immunisations

During the year 118 children were immunised against diphtheria, tetanus and Whooping cough. In 1968 the number of immunisations was 98. This year compares very favourably with the number of children immunised last year. However, I must point out that this does not reflect the total number of children which may have been immunised as some of these go to their own private doctors and hence our records are incomplete.

Smallpox Vaccinations

During the year only 45 primary vaccinations were completed. In 1968 there were 42 vaccinations completed.

Poliomyelitis

For 12 consecutive years no case has been notified. In 1957 three confirmed cases were discovered and a fourth was diagnosed as Lymphocytic Meningitis, probably Poliomyelitis.

Previous to this, for six years, only one unconfirmed case was notified.

Food Poisoning

For the fifth consecutive year no case has been notified.

Tuberculosis

Only one primary case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified.

In 1954 there were 19 notifications.

No. of Deaths

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

0 - 4

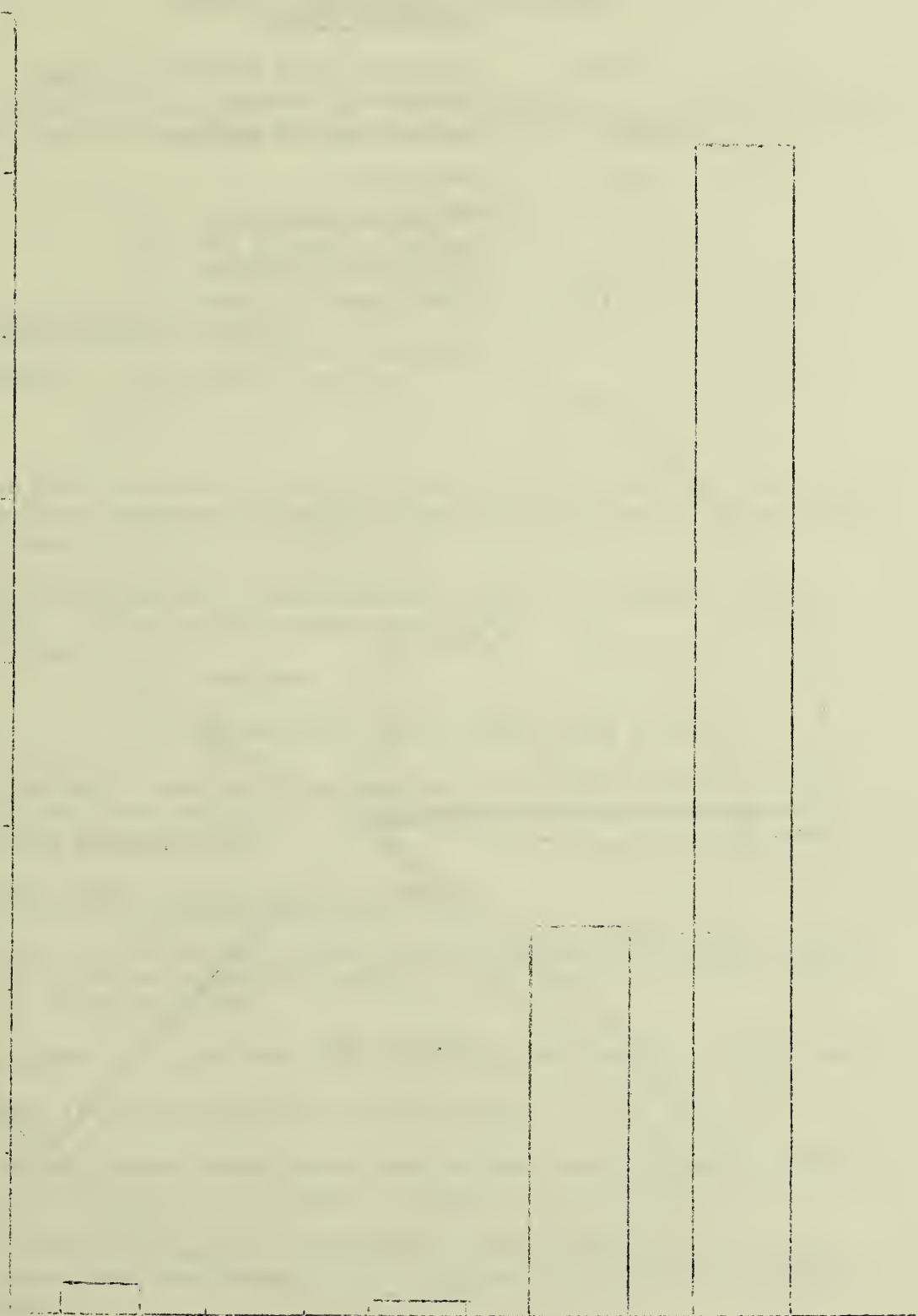
5 - 14

15 - 24

25 - 64

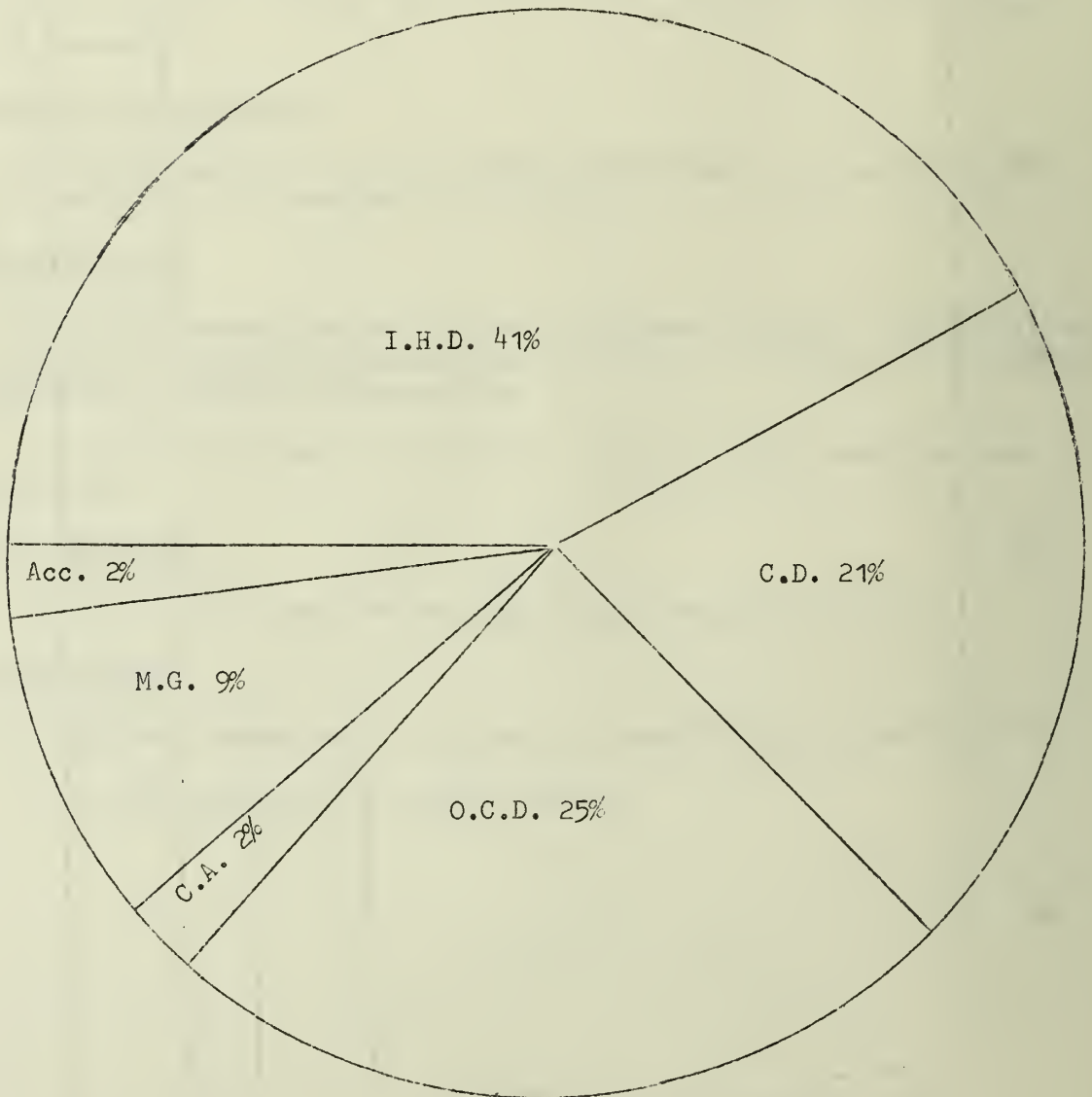
65+

Age
Groups



CAUSES OF DEATHS

- I.H.D. - Ischaemic Heart Disease and other diseases of heart.
- C.D. - Cerebrovascular Disease.
- Acc. - Accidents.
- M.G. - Malignant Growths.
- C.A. - Congenital Anomalies.
- O.C.D. - Other Causes of Death.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The main water supply of the town is supplied by the Wales Gas Board, Monmouth Gas & Water Undertaking. There are three separate sources of supply:-

- (1) High Pressure, Buckholt
- (2) Low Pressure, Buckholt
- (3) River from Mayhill

(1) High Pressure, Buckholt

Supplies 110,000 galls. per day.

Source

The known source is a spring in an opening in the rock formation in a large quarry situated in woodland owned by the Monmouth Gas and Water Undertaking. This land is fenced off.

The possibility of contamination at source is reduced to animal wild life. The gathering grounds consist of:-

- (a) Woodland;
- (b) Agricultural land forming sides of hill.

As spring is near top of a syncline in the rock formation it is possible that there may only be contamination from this agricultural land during heavy rainfall.

Collection, Purification and Distribution

Water from gathering grounds drains to inaccessible chamber buried under road, and to collection chambers within boundary of plot of land owned by the Undertaking.

The water is piped from these collecting chambers to storage tanks.

Water is chlorinated by Gas Chlorination.

The chlorinated water passes from storage tanks to main to Buckholt Water Works. Here it is filtered and passed out to town mains.

At Highfield Road this supply is fed into 75,000 gallon storage tanks which feed Osbaston and town, including the Kymin, via hydrostat, and Wyesham.

(2) Low Pressure, Buckholt

Supplies 1,241,000 galls. per day.

Source

The origin of source is unknown, gathering grounds are probably Buckholt Woods.

Collection, Purification and Distribution

Spring water collects in chamber by side of road below Cider Mill Cottage and is piped to Buckholt Water Works. Here it is chlorinated, then passed through slow sand filters and into the town mains. These mains go across country to Leasbrook Lane and feed Dixton Road, etc.

Water Works, Buckholt

These consist of:-

- (1) High Pressure filter
- (2) Two slow sand filters
- (3) Drip feed chlorination. Chlorine solution made from chloride of lime.

(3) Mayhill Supply

Supplies 171,000 galls. per day.

This is mainly river water pumped.

Water Works, Mayhill

These consist of:-

- (1) Storage tank, 245,000 gallons
- (2) Two slow sand filters
- (3) Chlorination tanks
- (4) Clean water storage, 12,000 gallons

The water passes through sand filters, is chlorinated by Gas Chlorination in clean water storage tanks.

The supply was regularly sampled for bacteriological examination. 97 samples being taken as follows:-

	NO.	PASS	FAIL	RESULT ON RESAMPLING
PUBLIC SUPPLY	82	80	2	Satisfactory
PRIVATE	15	13	2	Satisfactory

One chemical sample was taken from a private source following complaint of taste, this was found to be contaminated by over enthusiastic use of selective weed killer on the gathering ground. Following samples proved satisfactory.

General Remarks

The poor pressure areas of Rockfield, Brook Crescent and Brook Estate have now been improved and the cisterns converted from pressure to high pressure types.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year 53 houses were connected to the main sewerage system. The breakdown is as follows:-

- (a) 14 Council owned properties;
- (b) 39 Privately owned properties.

In addition to the figure 2 private houses were connected to septic tanks.

Redbrook Road Works

Sewage on east side of Wye gravitates to a position near the opening to the present inverted syphon on the east bank of the River Wye. A pumping station has been constructed on Corporation land behind the Monmouth School pavilion. A pumping main has been laid across the School playing fields, following the line of the old sewerage to the Redbrook Road and along the road to the treatment works.

The works consist of:-

2	Detritus Chambers and Screens
4	Settlement Tanks
4	Filter Beds
6	Humus Tanks
12	Sludge Beds

together with various pumps and mains at the treatment works.

Sewage first goes to the detritus chambers and screens where large solids are screened and passed direct to the sludge drying beds. Sewage passing through the detritus screens goes next to the settlement tank where biological action takes place and the solids left again go through to the sludge drying beds. Liquid sewage, with suspended solids, from the settlement tanks is then passed through to the filter beds. Bacteriological action takes place in these beds further breaking down the liquids into non-noxious parts. From the filter beds the liquid goes to the humus tanks where all remaining suspended solids are precipitated and passed to the sludge drying beds. The remaining liquid, which is now virtually pure, is then discharged into the river. Any liquid remaining in the sludge drying beds drains off and is passed back for further treatment. The sludge when dry is removed.

The works operated satisfactorily throughout the year, the Royal Commission standards being obtained for final effluent.

Sewage Disposal - New Works

The works on Phase 2 at Redbrook Road Works completed in 1966 have now been brought into use following the completion of the pumping main.

Unsewered Areas

There remains three areas of the town without a sewerage system, namely,

- (a) Northern area - Manson Cross, Manson Heights and Manson Lane;
- (b) Osbaston - Phase I of the scheme was nearing completion at the end of the year, this will bring Prospect Road, St. Mary's Well Road and Duchess Road into the water carriage system thus alleviating to a great extent the existing nuisance from septic tanks in this area;
- (c) Leasbrook Lane and the lower half of Dixon Road.

These properties are served by individual septic tanks constructed and maintained by the user. Outside the areas already discussed are scattered cottages, some of which have septic tank drainage, the remainder using chemical and bucket closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The total area of collection remains the same as for previous years.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Weekly collection is made to most of the area, certain outlying areas receive a fortnightly collection. All business premises in the centre of the town receive two collections weekly.

The use of paper sacks has been extended to all new Council property and has proved satisfactory. The existing staff are still maintaining an efficient regular collection service including the new development areas.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

As from the 1st April Brooksholme Tip has been run under strict "Controlled Tipping" and has greatly improved conditions normally found there. Together with the purchase of a Volvo digger conditions can now only improve, as the tip becomes more and more consolidated and grassed over fires, vermin and smell should be eliminated. A full time operator is employed in surface dressing and "face" control.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses owned by the local authority:-

(1) Under the Housing Acts	841
(2) Other powers	4

Number of houses erected during the year:-

(a) By local authority	29
(b) By other bodies and persons	30
	<hr/>
Total	59
	<hr/>

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year.

(a) Corporation owned.

During the year 1,144 complaints were made of defects, these in the majority were inspected by the officers and details of work required were passed to the labour force for action. It is still a matter of concern that we seem to be building a bigger back log of work each year, the tradesmen we have dealt with approximately 950 items of disrepair following complaint and about 150 routine defects found other than by complaint.

(b) Others

A detailed inspection was made of known "twilight areas" and reported upon.

2. A number of private dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers.

3

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(1) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act;

(a) A number of premises in respect of which notice was served requiring repairs

NIL

3. (2) Proceedings under Public Health Act;

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | A number of premises in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | NIL |
| (b) | Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice | |
| | (i) By the Owners | NIL |
| | (ii) By the Local Authority in the Default of Owners | NIL |

(3) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1936

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | NIL |
| (b) | Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | NIL |
| (c) | Undertakings given and accepted | 1 |
| (d) | Number of separate houses or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 3 |
| (e) | Number of separate houses or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the house or room having been rendered fit | NIL |
| (4) | Clearance Area - Houses demolished | NIL |
| (5) | Unfit houses purchased by agreement and demolished | NIL |

4. Improvement Grants

The use of improvement grants to bring houses up to modern standards is still being encouraged.

Standard Grants - 4

Discretionary Grants - 6

CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

Site	No. of Vans	W.Cs.	Taps	Gullies	Bins
Drybridge Street	15	1M 1F	2	2	2
Old Hadnock Road	8 vans 5 tents	1M 1F	2	2	3
"Riverside", Homestead Old Hadnock Road	12	3M 3F	4	8	9
King's Orchard, Manson	6	1M 1F	1	1	3

The above are licenced sites; besides these several fields adjoining the river are used by Exempted Organised Bodies. The number of tents on these sites varies considerably from 2 to 30.

Sites used by wandering "Tinkers" etc.

Troy Station

This area was twice occupied by vans of up to 24 on one occasion but with the help of the "Railway Police" cleared without much trouble.

Chippenham

Five times this site was used by caravaners, numbers ranging from 1 - 15 vans, the site being left in a little better state than previous years.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are three pools, one at Monmouth School for Girls, one at Monmouth School and one owned by the Monmouth & District Swimming Association.

Several visits were paid and water examined; all were satisfactory.

SCHOOLS

All schools are on the main sewerage system, and all schools are on the main water supply. Samples of milk and water were taken periodically by Monmouthshire County Council.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Unsound Food

The following miscellaneous foodstuffs were condemned:-

Meat	26	tins	Fish	76	tins
Fruit	102		Tomatoes	205	
Vegetables	86		Miscellaneous	36	

Distribution of Food Premises by Trades

Butchers	12	Fishmongers	2
Greengrocers	6	Grocers	13
General	19	Hotels	4
Guest Houses	4	Licenced Premises	34
Clubs	4	Schools	7
Fish & Chip Shops	3	Cafes	9
Bakers	3	Miscellaneous	3
Poultry Preparing Premises	1		
		Total	126

Premises Registered under Food and Drugs Act, 1955 S.16

Ice Cream Premises	28
Fish and Chip Shops	3
Sausage & Cooked Meats	9

Disposal of Condemned Food

The unsound food from shops is disposed of at the Refuse Tip.

ANNUAL REPORT ON RATS AND MICE

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Year Ended 31st December, 1968

		Type of Property	
Properties other than Sewers		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in district	2,660	26
2.a	Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	109	
b	Number infested by (i) Rats	30	
	(ii) Mice	50	
3.a	Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	65	
b	Number infested by (i) Rats	30	
	(ii) Mice	50	
Sewers			
4.	Were any sewers infested by rats during the year?	YES	

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	8	NIL	NIL
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	47	21	NIL	NIL
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total	54	29	NIL	NIL

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more separate "cases.")

17.

	No. of cases in which defects were:-				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) a. Insufficient b. Unsuitable or defective c. Not separate for sexes					
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Inspection of Business Premises under the following Acts

a) Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act.

During the years inspections, which numbered 67, no serious controventions were noted and of the few verbal notices given all were complied with on revisiting. Two new registrations were recorded.

<u>TABLE A REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS</u>				
Totals	*(1)	*(2)	*(3)	*(4)
Offices		1	24	6
Retail Shops			83	108
Wholesale shops, warehouses			3	4
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens			19	16
Fuel Storage Depots			4	NIL

- *(1) Class of premises
- *(2) Number of premises registered during the year
- *(3) Total number of registered premises at the end of year
- *(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year

TABLE B NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY
INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

59

<u>TABLE C ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE</u>		
Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed	
	Males	Females
Offices	13	102
Retail Shops	101	236
Wholesale departments, warehouses	24	21
Catering establishments open to the public	32	138
Canteens	Nil	Nil
Fuel Storage Depots	3	Nil
Total	172	497
Total Males and Females	656	497

(b) Food Hygiene Regulations

All food shops in the Borough were inspected during the year at least once, and it is pleasing to note that apart from a small number of shops a good all round standard of hygiene is maintained.

Number of formal letters sent re unsatisfactory conditions 8

Number of legal proceedings taken NIL

(c) Shops Act

No serious controventions were found, minor controventions were dealt with informally usually without further warnings.

Number of premises inspected 47

Number of premises re-inspected 32

(d) Food & Drugs Act

There are 40 premises registered under this Act and of the visits made one required informal notice to be served.

Civic Amenities Act 1967

Removal and Disposal of Abandoned Vehicles

The word "Abandoned" is not strictly correct when referred to our problem in Monmouth. The vehicles which we have to deal with are in the main cars which young men buy cheaply and try "to do them up", usually in the Service areas on our post war housing estates.

Notices were posted on three vehicles which were eventually taken away and disposed of on the Brooksholme Tip. Other vehicles were successfully dealt with by the co-operation of the Police.

